

## REMARKS

Claims 25-30, 33, 35, 37-39, and 41-43 are pending after the amendment. Claim 36 has been incorporated into independent Claim 25 and has been cancelled.

In a telephone conversation on September 14, 2007, the examiner cited Pat. No. 5,472,4437, to Takemoto.

The most relevant portions of Takemoto describe a row of gaming machines 1 (see Fig. 2), where each gaming machine 1 has a background display (Fig. 3), such as showing swimming fishes 4. Upon one of the gaming machines in the row winning or needing attention, a display controller controls all the fish 4 in all the background displays to “swim” in the direction of the gaming machine of interest (col. 9, lines 41-59). This draws attention to the gaming machine of interest to add excitement. A separate dome display 22 (Fig. 4), which is not part of the gaming machines 1, includes lights that are sequentially illuminated to “point” to the gaming machine of interest in the row (col. 9, line 60, to col. 10, line 17). This creates a more public light display than the gaming machine background display and can be used to attract the attention of an attendant.

The purpose of the Takemoto system is to draw all attention to a single gaming machine. It is a key aspect of the Takemoto invention that the gaming machines with this feature are in a row, since the lights “point” to the gaming machine of interest.

Applicant’s amended Claim 25 (previously Claim 36) coordinates a light display on certain linked gaming machines to indicate that those gaming machines will soon be starting a competitive game (e.g., a tournament). The linked gaming machines can be distributed around the casino and do not need to be in a row. **The claimed coordinated light display does not single out one gaming machine, in contrast to the Takemoto invention.**

Amended Claim 25 recites (added language underlined):

selectively illuminating the lamps of the linked gaming machines running along the left and right sides of each gaming machine’s display in a coordinated manner to indicate to players that the gaming machines are linked and share a common feature,

wherein selectively illuminating the lamps in the borders of the linked gaming machines in a coordinated manner to indicate to players that the gaming machines are linked and share a common feature comprises illuminating the lamps in the linked gaming machines to signal the beginning of a competitive game.

Additionally, in Takemoto, the coordinated control of the dome lights or background display does not indicate that the gaming machines have any “common feature,” in contrast to Claim 25, since the Takemoto invention is just a pointing technique.

Further, Takemoto’s invention is triggered by the outcome of a gaming machine or a player pressing an attendant’s call button, while Applicant’s coordinated light display signals the beginning of a competitive game, which is not simply a result of a game outcome.

Still further, Applicant’s location of the claimed border lights enables the lights to have multiple functions, such as highlighting one of two displays on the gaming machine, as claimed in dependent Claim 28.

Accordingly, Applicant’s Claim 25 performs a function that is not suggested by Takemoto.

The allowability of Claim 25 over the other prior art cited in this case has been discussed in previous responses. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended Claim 25 and its dependent claims are respectfully submitted to be allowable. Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (408) 382-0480 ext. 202.

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September 14, 2007  
Date of Signature

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